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Kirkpatrick to Quit Government

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U.N. Ambassador Jeane J. Kirkpatrick, tacitly conceding that President Reagan did not offer her the kind of job she considers necessary to exert strong conservative influence on the administration, announced yesterday that she is leaving government in order to "speak out clearly" about her views on the proper course of American foreign policy.

Administration sources, familiar with Kirkpatrick's thinking and the internal maneuvering about her future, said her remarks were intended as an acknowledgment and expression of concern about her belief that control of U.S. foreign policy has been captured by Secretary of State George P. Shultz and the administration's moderate wing.

After a 35-minute private White House meeting with Reagan, Kirkpatrick ended weeks of speculation about her future. Her conservative supporters had campaigned intensely to persuade the president to

carve out an important new role for her in his second term.

Many administration officials believe that retired Lt. Gen. Vernon A. Walters, the State Department's chief diplomatic trouble-shooter, is the leading candidate to succeed Kirkpatrick. But they have cautioned that the choice is not certain. Well-placed sources within the administration said Reagan made clear to Kirkpatrick in the meeting that she could have a job overseeing U.S. foreign aid activities.

Aware for several days that this would be his offer, Kirkpatrick declined in favor of returning to Georgetown University, where she is a political science professor. Yesterday, she appeared before reporters to read a statement that she said she had written Tuesday night.

It concluded: "I now feel that I can best serve the president and our shared objectives for the United States and the world by returning to teaching and writing. In private life—perhaps even more than in public life—I can speak out clearly on behalf of such shared foreign policy objectives as restoring and preserving American strength, supporting democracy and independence in the hemisphere, defending our friends, our principles, and our interests in the Middle East and elsewhere."

The administration sources said her statement also was meant as a warning that she is prepared to criticize administration policy publicly if, in her view, it deviates from her strong beliefs that the United States must maintain a tough line toward leftist activity in Central America and other Third World regions.

According to the sources, Kirkpatrick told Reagan yesterday that some members of his administration do not agree with foreign policy positions on which he twice campaigned successfully for the presidency.

The sources said they did not know whether she specifically mentioned Shultz, but one noted that "the thrust of her remarks was unmistakable." Another added: "She does not regard many of Shultz's ideas as those in which Reagan truly believes."

Kirkpatrick's decision clearly disappointed administration conservatives, one of whom said, "We're losing one member after another of the real Reaganaut team."

The reference was to departure from the top policy-making circle of former national security affairs adviser William P. Clark, who subsequently became interior secretary and announced plans to retire; White House counselor Edwin Meese III, nominated as attorney general, and Faith Ryan Whittlesey, White House public liaison director nominated to return to her former post as ambassador to Switzerland.

Conservatives, who regard Kirkpatrick almost

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